

ANTE COMMUNION HEALING SERVICE

First Wednesday after the Epiphany



OPENING SALUTATION Blessed be God: father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

PENITENTIAL ORDER If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

The Deacon or Celebrant then says: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Minister and People *Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Almighty Father, who inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God: Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

FIRST READING: Acts 4: 8-13

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised

from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 23 *Dominus, regit me*

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.*

³ He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

⁴ *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;*

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ *Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: *Matthew 16:13-19*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew ✠ *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

HOMILY

A LITANY OF HEALING *Deacon:* Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

Lector: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation; *we praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly; *we praise you and thank you, O Lord*

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence; *we praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being; *we praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence: *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

You are the Lord who does wonders: *You have declared your power among the peoples*

With you, O Lord, is the well of life: *And in your light we see light.*

Hear us, O Lord of life: *Heal us, and make us whole.*

Let us pray. A period of silence follows. Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.*

O God, the source of all health: So fill our hearts with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy we may make room for your power to possess us, and gracefully accept your healing. Comfort and relieve all those for whom we pray, give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

If you desire to receive the Laying on hands for yourself or on behalf of someone else, let us know.

N., I lay my hands upon you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you with his presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give you that victory of life and peace which will enable you to serve him both now and evermore

THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be always with you. *And also with you.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER And now, filled by the Spirit we may pray, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

A COLLECT FOR PEACE Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace,

and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *Let us pray, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.* (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

THE BLESSING May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! *Thanks be to God!*